\$10,000 for 1,000 Words or Less

for an Idea for a Sequel to

"THE DIAMOND FROM THE SKY."

The American Film Company (Inc.) Picturized Romantic Novel in Chapters.

This contest is open to any man, woman, or child who is not connected directly or indirectly with the Film Company or the newspapers publishing the continued story.

You are advised to see the continued photoplay in the theaters, read the story as it runs every week, and then send in your suggestion. By following the narrative in print and observing the action on the screen you will be given a splendid opportunity to supply a suggestion for a sequel.

A board of three judges will decide which of the suggestions received is most acceptable. The judgment of that board will be absolute and final.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Suggestions for a sequel will be accepted up to and including February 20, 1916. As it is the IDEA that is wanted, no attention will be paid to literary style. Contestents must confine their contributions to 1,000 words or

The prize award to be payment in full for all literary, dramatic, and motion picture rights.

Send all suggestions to THE AMER-ICAN FILM COMPANY (Inc), 6227 BROADWAY, CHICAGO, ILL.

SYMOPSIS OF "THE DIAMOND FROM THE SKY." The diamond goes with the title to the the to the fallow in England, that may comes to the transa staniers. To cheat a hated kineman of to tall Steney has substructed a gypsy buly boy, and the fall that a monatural father. For the little angular here to him. His young wife dies, the could green inches returns and takes in revenue the last fall that return the last fall that the country of the last country will have remark the last fall that return the last country will have remark the last country will have remark the last country will have remark the last country will be supported to the same that the last country will be supported to the same that Stanler girl laty raised in secret, and rears blin as her own. The grpey's son grows up a lives wasted and becomes great friends with it Stanler, who is rightful help. Blair is reckless. siconic and lates Arthur, but discombles. Ar-siconic and lates Arthur, but discombles. Ar-strangely beaus he is only a grosy changeling on vest under the assumed name of John Pow-log the blance of a murder Blair has com-missing the blance of a murder Blair has com-missing the blance of a murder Blair has comthat Arthur believing be has wronged and blatz. But Arthur does not tell Blair be table belt and blair the rightful one. The from the sky passes from hand to hand, ideal by encinies who seek life ruin. He is favored in an accident and these enemies make a door third of him. Esther, supposed to be only a river north forms she to really Esther Stanley and to Unifornia seeking Arthur, whom she love Marston, an adventuress, secretly married to together with Durand and De Vaux, heads of had "John Powell, the mad millionstre se Arthur in Asswer to wilder dissipations, the whole him tener to rain Asthur morally, financially, and partition . Minir seeks Arthur's wealth and ultithe diamond, as do Durand and De Vans. Home double crosses his former gyper accomplice, i she Lorell, and railroads him to prison. Esther is published at Arthur's strange conduct—for the plotters convince their drug victim he is going ins-Hagar, Esther's foster mother, is but place is necestering from a blow that Blutz dealt he which conferred her temporarily deranged. Meanwhile Esther's devoted friends, Quabba, a bunchback, and Marmaduke Smythe, an English lawyer, seeking the her to the Stanley encidem, are her only friends. Esther learns Arthur is addicted to drugs, and in disgnst sports him understanding at last the cause of his strange behavior. She cast saids the diamo from the sky he proffered.

> Convright: 1915; By Roy L. McCardell.] CHAPTER XXV.

A HOUSE OF CARDS. IE miracle of dawn crimsoned all the rast; the last bolsterous revelers were departing from the fête of the mad millionaire.

Only the butler, as major domo, had speeded the parting guests; but the guests had reveled and gorged and swilled and cared nothing at heart for host or mansion that had entertained them with a Belshazarian feast. And it was a Belshazzarian feast and the handwriting of destruction was on the wall.

in the small reception room upstairs the unhappy wretch once called the golden subbed on his arms like the drug weakling he was. Vivian, her hair in disorder and vixen-like in her anger and greed, shook Arthur by the shoulder and cried: "Where is the diamond?"

Blair, noting the open window, left Durand and Vivian by Arthur and crossed to it. There, down, below, was Angelo, the Italian gardener, up at dawn to his work, plucking the diamond from the sky from the rose bush, just where it had been ast through the window by the indignant Eather when Arthur had proffered it to her. " Hi there, you!" called Blair. "Don't

take that! I am coming down for it. The gardener, who, like the rest of the zervants, bore a sullen dislike to the whilem friends who surrounded their maxter, growled an unintelligible reply.

Durand, who sensed that the diamond had been found, sprang from the room and him. They can from the front of the house and to the back. But the gardener picked up a heavy stake tying by the rose bush and stood them off

"I take to the boss! " he said. Nor would he be shaken from this resolve. And Durand and Blair, cursing his stubbornness, escorted him back into the house and to

Vivian, realizing the diamond was recovered, had censed her vixenish demands, and was agin resorting to wiles and cajolemeat. But Arthur, shaken with shame and wholly unnerved that they had deceived him as regards Esther's presence in the usty, his shame augmented by the realiza-



BLAIR DEALS, HIM A BLOW WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH WITH THE SLUNGSHOT



REUNITED AT THE SANITARIUM, HAGAR AND ESTHER WEPT WHEN THEY SPOKE OF ARTHUR

and whole. I will divide all I have with you and Vivian if you will only help me; say yo And Arthur clong to Blair and pleaded and Blair glibly promised.

Handsoniely paid for his services, good and bad, Durand affected to philosophically accept his diamissib. He proposed one good night of it' before he left with De-Vant for the east, and the one good night took the form of a poker game in the Powell library

in Richmond, at the Riverview santtarium, Hagar had almost wholly recovered. The clot upon her brain caused by the cruel blow Blair had struck her had been absorbed. Her memory came back to her, But the death, after a stroke of paralysis, of Bigirs mother and moditation during her convalescence has broadened Hagas's gypsy mature to a disposition of forgiveness. The sorrow sue had undergone in the disappointment Arthur, her proffigate son, had en to her also chaptened Hagar's proud

ough Esther's letters she now knew that Arthur in all his wealth and luxury had surrounded himself with evil company and that Blair and the adventuress. Vivian Marston, were among his familiars and parasites. But one thing she did not know, and that was Arthur and fallen into the clutches of the drug habit. Reunited at the senitarium, lingar and Esther embraced and wept when they spoke of Arthur.

"it is greed that has changed him," said Hagur nofily. "Money greed-that was his father's curse." And Hagar's mind reverted to that dreadful night of physical and mental anguish when Arthur had been born to her and his unnatural father, the dend Matt Harding, had sold his new born child to Col. Stanley to further the family ambia tions and family hatreds of the Stunieya.

"It was money greed that led poor Luke

tinued Hagar. "I am happy to know that Luke is contrite of heart in all save his present desire for vengeance on Arthur and his associates, who have betrayed and imprisoned him ungenerously, as he thinks." He is very bitter to them," murmured Esther. "He asks your forgiveness, mother dear, and longs to return and serve you faithfully again. But he will not be stirred

from his determination to have vengeance." Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord; I will repay," said Hugar softly, as her hands subconsciously closed upon the Bible she was holding in her lap.

"We will return home, to your home, my dear child, to Stanley hall," whispered Hagar when she regained her composure. There we will discuss the plans I have long meditated upon since my recovery and in your absence. Perhaps this good friend ill go with us and give us the benefit of his able counsel, and she turned to the sympathetic eccentric English lawyer, who had accompanied Esther from the west, and again thanked him brokenly for his kindness to and his projection of Esther.

On a prison roof in far away Los Angeles Quabba, burning his fingers with a plumber's furnace, was receiving a verbal castlgation from Cesare, the Italian contractor, "You a fine bum roofer!" the contractor was declaring scornfully. "You no good

Quabba shrugged his shoulders and replied: "Ha, what you tink you get for a scab job, a jeweler?"

for a damn'

" All right, tomorrow I fire you and hire the monkey you have. He gotta da more brains!" And the contractor spat in disgust and threw down the loop of scaffold ropes he was carrying and hobbled away. Quabba raised his voice in sing-song pro-

test, mingling Romany expressions with his jargon of Italian and broken English, and he did so with a purpose; and the purpose had its effect. At his cell window below the caves of the prison roof the shaved and shorn Luke

Lovell caught the gypsy Jargon. Luke tapped three times upon the bar at his window. Quabbu heard and understood. He tapped three times in reply upon the gutter. Then, taking a ball of cord from his breast, Quabba slipped a hacksaw from the tools and, peering over the roof to note no watchful eye observed, he lowered the instrument of liberty to the cell window. It was drawn within, and then Quabba whispered over the gutter edge in Romany that he had a rope tied to the cord and that the other extremity of the rope was fastened to the chimney.

Blair? I want to go tack to Esther clean Further directions as to where Quabba would wait for the prisoner with a change of clothing were whispered in the gyper tongue. The next night was the time ap-

> At the Powell mansion "the last night" is duly celebrated. De Vaux is not there, but Durand and Vivian are with Arthur the library, plying him with liquor and encouraging him to wild and foolish play at cards. Durand has the money for the generous check that Arthur gave him. But the archerook is not content with this. Congenitally he is a diamond thief, and big diamonds, rare diamonds, valuable diamonds are his obsession. Not to buy them, not to keep them-but to steal them?

In the embinet in John Powell's room is the diamond from the sky. John Powell, whom he has snatched from the jaws of death and made a drug flend of-has given Durand his conge as physician and assostate, but ere he goes upon his way Durand, the King of diamonds, as the thief world side, disguised as a workman and hiding in the shrubbery, is Durand's one faithful ally, De Vana, the Jackal, the knave of Chais of "the pack." Durand has tampered with Vivian, but he does not trust her. Nor does Durand fear Binir, nor even John Powell, the millionaire, once he has the diamond in his hands and safe away Durand has lived too close to them all not to be aware that there are certain things in the lives of the two young Virginians that would make them avoid any too close inquiry into their records. "Everybody has a past-generally a bad one," said a cynta

What John Powell has done in the days he was Arthur Stanley I grand has not known nor cared. Whatever it is, it is enough that once he, Durand, has the great diamond no legal process to recover it will be dured. So while the card games for high stakes without limit are at its height Durand deftly takes occasion to sift a sleeping powder into the glass of John Powell, whose tongue is thick and whose taste is deadened with his indulgence with wine. The game breaks up, owing to the sleepy languor of the host, who is led away, and the others retire shortly afterwards. But Vivian has betrayed Durand to Blair, Shu knows Durand well; she knows once he has the diamond it will be taken abroad to Bioliand and sold and dissevered.

Hiding in her room after midnight, Blair and Vivian hear Durand creep down the hall. They give him time to enter and to work in the room of the drugged and unconscious master of the house. Then en noiseless feet the desperate Blair steals in upon the king of diamonds. Unseen, unheard, Binir creeps behind Durand in the semi-darkness of Arthur's room as the archthief pries open the cabinet.

Durand has the diamond and mosts over it in the gleam of a hand flashiight. With. out a word Blair deals him a blow with all his strength with the slungshot he carries. The blow glances, and Durand, no mean antagonist even for the closes in upon his assailant. They cursu and sway and struggle. Blair, held too closely by Durand to give full -wing to his deadly weapon, rains blow after blow upon Durand at short range. The costly furnishings of the room are overturned and shattered.

Arthur is roused by the struggle from his drugged sleep, and rises eyed, from his bed. Vivian, in a tremor of anxiety in the doorway, switches on the lights full and bright. At the light Biair rises to a frenzy of murderous activity. He seizes Durand by the throat, his weapon arm how free, and brings the slungshot down with sickening force upon the skutt of the bleeding Durand, and re- casts the battered king of diamonds mighty effort. Back, flung like a sack, the archiblef, weak and stunned, falls against the low, wide window and through it down the sheer height to the lawn below, striking full upon his guilty, shattered head, breaking his neck. But he has carried with him to his death, clutched with a grip Blair could not loosen, the diamond from the sky!

As Durand lies broken and -? upon the ground a meaning figure crouches over him in the shadow. A hand wrests the diamond from the relaxing grasp of the dead swindler, there is a thudding of hurried feet across the lawn, and the watcher is gone, and with him goes the diamond from the sky!

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



THEY SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE FORM OF A POKER GAME

tion that Esther knew now how he had fallen in his drug addiction, took the diamond and staggered from the room, with a few muttered thanks to the gardener

Reaching his suite, he locked the diamond in an ornate cabinet by the great rear window of his bedroom and then, pacing up and down, fought the devil of drug desire, for Esther's sake-and lost again.

The English lawyer Smythe, a knight in armor in all sooth, excepted the shaken Esther to her hetel, having picked up the watching and waiting Qualiba 'n front of the Powell mansion and taken him with them in the taxical.

"I will see you safely back to Richmond," said Smythe gently. you say, has recovered and you wish to return to her. I am going back to England resolved to let the American heir of heirs to the Stanley carldem claim the title when he or they may choose."

"But what shall I do about Luke Lovell?" asked Esther. "All his life, except for the brief revolt he now begs forgiveness for, he served my mother faithfully,"

I would suggest," said Smythe, "that our friend Quabba here stay belind us and mee what he can do. He may secure Lov-ell's rejence by appealing to Arthur Stanley, or, as he calls himself now, John Powell.

I have no faith in Arthur now." said Esther wearily. "He has fallen into evil ways through evil associations," But in her steadfast heart Esther resolved to sa nothing to Smythe now nor Hagar later regarding Arthur's drug addiction.

"Well," suggested the English lawyer, our friend Quabba here can Reep us posted and we may be able to take up the matter of endeavoring to secure Lovell's release from this unjust incurrentation after we return to Richmond."

The next day Esther, accompanied by Smythe, left Los Angeles for Richmond. Quabba, placed in funds by Smythe, stayed behind. Qualiba was an Halian gypsy, and his new friend and compatitiot, the gar-sense at the Fowell madelon, was at the train with him when he hade his respectful adlega to his young mistress and to Smythe,

On the way back from the depot, the gardenet, decoming Quabba needed cheering, led him to the garden-restaurant La Bella Napoli. It was an humble place, ac arbored resort frequented by Italian working peorite. Signora Solari made them welcome.

"She has no good looks," whispered Quabba's friend, "but you should see her daughter Rosa! Ab Rosa is a charmer, how she will smile at you if you pay for the better wine! You should see her? It was fated that Qualita was to see the

ravishing Rosa., De Vaux, a lady killer, to his way of thinking, had also seen the raviahing Rosa. She had smiled at De Vaux a passing and he had followed her to the rden Lu Bella Napoli. A citizen of the world, the dapper count, who spoke Italian harmingly, knew well how to ingrathate daughter and the landledy. Do Vaux ordered the high priced Counti on which there was the good profit.

From their distant table in the garden Quabba and the Powell gardener noted all this, but kept their distance unseen and unnoticed by the languishing De Vaux. Fate was playing into the hands of Quabba. Cesare, the contractor, had joined Quabba and his friend at their table in the corner, He had a grievance, had Cesare, the contractor. He proclaimed it.

"Look you." he said, "I get a contract, a good contract, to fix a roof, and I can't get may of these inzgaroni to go on the

Questioned why by Quabba, Cesare shrugged his shoulders and said: "There are two reasons the lonfers give me. One by that it is a nonunion job, and the other twit is work at the prison-and that they do not like. They fear the prison, maybe for good reasons."

Qualita sat erret. The prison? Luke Lovell was in the prison! "Me, observe met Roofing! That was my tradet" cried Quabba. "Angelo here

Angelo, who knew nothing at all of the matter, roundly swore that Quabba was the hest roofer that had ever left fruly. At the Powell manslen suspictor. and counterplot were the aftermath of the

grand fête. Arthur announced that he would return to his business affairs and had hinted that he was prepared to pay Durand handsomely for his services us a physician and would be relieved if he and his familiar, De Vaus, would go about their affairs. He drew a check for a large sum and gave it to Durand. But Durand had no intention of departing without the great diamond word of which had drawn him to

Durand had held threats over Vivian of disclosing their former swindling associaling to both Blair and Arthur did she not ald him and keep silent, On her part Vivian promised, but in her heart she was resolved that she alone would have the

Arthur's return to his office was made a happy affair by 1.5 employes. His deak bore a large horseshoe of flowers and his secretary welcomed him back to health and his business in an earnest little speech Arthur, speaking as John Powell, their

employer, thanked them feelingly and alluded to the loyalt, and service of his kinsman from Virginia, Phil. Stanley, who had so ably managed affairs in his absence The little audience applicated and the basiness of the day was resumed.

Arthur was grateful to Blair. He had been angry when he realized he had been deceived regarding Esther by all who surrounded him in his great mansion since the day he had been brought home shattered and insensible. But Vivian and Blair had plended with significant hints that they had thought it best to accept Durand's suggreation, as Arthur's physician, that his patient he not unduly excited while convalueing. The hints inferred, also, that this was to shield Esther from the knowledge of the drug weakness, that she had learned, despite the efforts of all, when she had ancountered Arthur face to face at the doithme ball. Arthur had reluctantly concluded Wats and Vivian had meant well, led it began to dawn upon him that Durand was responsible for the drug addiction that

"He had better have let me die." Arthur confessed to Blair, "I shall get rid or him his creature. De Vaux, and you and Vivinh will help me cure myself, won't you,

Shown in Moving Pictures, Sundays Only, at the Lion Theatre